

FRS NEWSLETTER

Number 14- June 1997

Dear FRS-Holland Friend!

In front of you the restyled "FRS Newsletter", edition 14, the first one in its current format. Also the first one being sent to primarily subscribers in Europe but also the rest of the world. It's so good to see many faithful readers having decided to take an annual subscription, thus continuing to be part of the FRS family. "FRS Goes DX" is no more, this Newsletter certainly cannot be compared with a 24 or 28 page magazine. But that was already explained in the final edition 143 a few months ago. We aim to provide you with (free) radio news, compact, no-nonsense and up-to-date. Main purpose of this Newsletter is telling you what's going on in the world of SW but we also bring a mix of International radio news (offshore, satellite, legal). And: we publish some of your letters and inform you what's happening behind the scenes of FRS-Holland. Although we intended to fully concentrate on SW, we have decided to cover some International news as well. Hope you're going to like it. Although the FRS Newsletter is only a small publication, our news coverage contains news items not be read in any other publication. Any comments etc. are welcome via our Email addresses or via the Herten maildrop! Thanks for your support!!

Finally: we have done some adjustments in our word processing software enabling us to provide some 25% extra information on each page.

FRS NEWSCORNER

READER's REACTIONS FOLLOWING THE FINAL "FRS GOES DX" ISSUE # 143

The fact that "FRS GOES DX" as a magazine has disappeared from the European Free Radio scene has evoked quite a number of emotional reactions from our readership. Not to wonder, a great number of readers subscribed to the magazine for over a decade, even some never missed a single magazine since it was first published in the Summer of 1982! Here's what some of the readers wrote:

"Thank you so much for sending me the last issue of FRS Goes DX recently which has indeed been a great read from cover to cover and also for the past fifteen years too. Whilst I am a little shocked to read that FRS Goes DX has ended, I can naturally understand your reasons. Perhaps it would be fair to say that you have become a victim of your unquestioned success" (Nicholas Sharpe, UK); "Although I was a member for only a relatively brief period (3 years), I still would like to thank you for all the good and hard work" (Herman Boel, Belgium); "Hallo Peter, I'm seriously shocked reading FRS Goes DX is no more" (Radio Joystick OP, Germany); "What a pity that issue no. 143 of FRS GOES DX was the final one. But as I already told you in my last letter, I absolute understand your decision. I would like to thank you and all the other contributers of FRS Goes DX for your engagement over the past 15 years. FRS Goes DX was always an interesting and informative magazine, which I will miss in the future. - Thank you." (Chr. Bergmann, Germany); "Thanks for your recent final issue of FRS Goes DX! Sad to see you quitted the mag but I can imagine the lack of time you have because of your family activities" (Rainer Brandt-Germany); "What a bad news I must read in the latest FRS Goes DX - THE CLOSURE after so many years. Really a shame. But of course I understand the situation with family, radio and a magazine. It was really a surprise that you were able to keep running all the things for such a long time. So I will thank you for many interesting hours with reading FRS Goes DX and of course I will also subrise the newsletter" (R. Palma, Germany); "Just a few weeks ago, I read about FRSGDX closing down as a magzine. It's a great pity that FRSGDX in its current format disappears. Nevertheless I fully understand Peter's decision, I know how much work it is producing the mag. In future I will subscribe to the FRS Newsletter." (Markus Weidner- Germany). "I very much understand your decision although I regret the fact FRSGDX is no more. Peter, I have always admired your enthusiasm and commitment." (Joachim Tegeler- Germany); "Thank you

very much for the great magazine FRSGDX which I received for so many years." (Risto Harjula- Finland). Thanks to all of you for your letters, it's good to see you do understand my decision to quit. Besides: you really care.... (PV)

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

For the upcoming months a few broadcasts are planned. FRS-Holland will hopefully take to the airwaves in June or July. It was intended to be on air in May but due to Radio Free London's temporarily inactivity (for the full sensational story see the SW section) this broadcast had to be cancelled. As far as the upcoming weeks are concerned, we will be on air with a one hour test on 48 metres on a Sun morning in June or early July. In addition a two hour nighttime trm was put out in the night of Sat June 21st to Sun June 22nd. This broadcast took place on 6275/48 metres. It is almost 100% certain that FRS-Holland will be on air August 17th with a regular 3rd Sunday (daytime) broadcast. We also consider the idea of having an extra broadcast on the night of August 16th to 17th, either on 76 metres or on the good old 48 mb. Two weeks later on the 31st of August it's exactly 17 years ago that we started with official programming on SW. Perhaps we'll be putting out something special on that date.... So August 31st could see us on air celebrating unofficially our 17th birthday. This broadcast will possibly take place on 76 metres in the night of Saturday August 30th to 31st. But it could be as well Sunday mornings on 48 metres.... All above trms will be aired with our own transmitters, if conditions are not too bad, good signals are guaranteed! In case RFL's relay service will be reactivated, FRS-H will see the official celebration of our 17th birthday, hopefully on two frequencies. For those who do not know why our birthday shows are celebrated in October: SW propagation in October is mostly much better than in August. As these shows require lengthy preparation, we don't want take the risk that such broadcast is spoilt because of poor conditions.... In the past 5 years it has been proved we were very right, since 1990 not one single October broadcast was unsuccessful because of poor conditions!

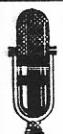
August is a very special months for Offshore Radio. August 14th 1967 the M.O.A. came into force in the UK. All British stations except Radio Caroline left the airwaves. 7 Years and 17 days later- August 31st 1974- the Dutch version of the M.O.A. made an end on Radio Veronica, Atlantis & Radio Northsea. Caroline and Radio Mi Amigo continued... For that reason FRS-Holland could be producing special shows in August on the 17th/31st.... It is impossible to mention already frequencies but if we are on 48 metres, 6243 could be a good possibility! We are considering the idea of testing on 51 metres in the 5800-5810 range in the not too distant future. Perhaps one of the August broadcasts is taking place within the 5800-5820 kHz range! Important is to check our website for the latest news regarding FRS-Holland:

< <http://home.pi.net/~freak5/home.htm> >. People who are in our SW addressbox will be kept up-to-date by means of e-mails. Remember: any FRS-H Sunday means superb rock music, the latest (and most) free radio information, fast-moving radio and above all entertainment. So don't miss it!!

THE SW FREE RADIO SCENE

In this "first" edition we cover the news of the period May- June 15th emphasizing on the developments in the past few weeks! Some of the newsmets in this column aren't to be read in any other mag, so the FRS Newsletter is a reliable/ interesting source for all SW free radio enthusiasts...

Conditions have been very poor lately on 48 metres. There have been Sundays with almost no stations audible at the FRS headquarters. The good news is that 76 mb conditions have increased, signals have been very good during a couple of Saturday nights. There's much activity, also during weekdays. Many former Dutch medium wave pirates try their luck within the 3900-3945 kHz range. In fact this part of the SW free radio dial is nowadays over-crowded, some Dutch stations (Spaceman, Boomerang) use very high powers up to 1 kW! Talking of long term conditions, the



prospects are a bit contradictory but tend to be hopeful. A new sunspot cycle has started and we seem to have passed the lowest point. Things must improve in the upcoming years as we head for another sunspot maximum. The big question is what the current sunspot cycle will bring us... If it is comparable with the propagation in the 1980-1983 period, we may thank God on bended knees. If not, then.... (just make your own choice).

■ According to RFL's Andy Walker the London AM pirate **RADIO ARGUS** carried out SW tests on 15360 kHz/ 19 mb in April. Power was 20W. So far we haven't heard about reception in parts of Europe/ the rest of the world. Future plans are un-known, we'll keep an eye on Argus.

■ **BRITAIN RADIO INT.** produced a brandnew 1997 info-sheet in which station-OP Roger Davies apologizes for not being able to reply quickly to its listeners. He expresses the hope that BRI will get back to replying within 5 weeks of receiving listeners' letters. Sad to read is that listeners response was at an all time low in 1996 for reasons the BRI staff are not sure about. FRS Newsletter's guess is that more stations had to deal with poor listener's response in 1996. Fact is the station deserves far better response looking at the quality of the programmes. In the mean time a new BRI studio is under construction and could perhaps already been in operation at the moment you read this. The old studio which was used since 1980, needed upgrading, for instance a new mixer will be (has been) installed. BRI aims at a three hour 2nd/4th Sunday Service each month. Add is (4).

■ The good results of RFL within the 51 mb inspired **RADIO COMMUNICATION** to test on 5810 kHz. A fair signal was heard. As far as we know the station wasn't heard on 5.8 Mhz. eversince. Add=(1). We are curious whether other station follow RFL's example to move down the band....

■ Imagine a guy (CWR's Chris Ise) driving a few hundreds of km by car to his QTH in France, discovering at the site that all equipment is in the car except that tiny little thing called crystal....! Chris was sick to death but...he's learnt to check his checklist before leaving home.

■ **RADIO EAST COAST HOLLAND** is nowadays active on 76 metres during Saturday nights. The station's OP has constructed a brandnew tx which seems to work well, looking at the signal-quality. The tx's output is 100+ W. Sister-station **The VOICE OF THE NETHERLANDS**, quite active on 3.9 Mhz and on 48 metres as well, shares the Email address with RECH: >rnagtegl@accessnet.nl <. The VOTN usually uses 30W which is at present time more than enough to provide a solid signal in wide areas. Both stations are also to be contacted via the well-known Hoogeveen adds.

■ **EMERALD RADIO** is new international radio from Ireland. The station broadcasts World-wide on the Internet Short-wave, Satellite and on local AM/FM stations. On the Internet the URL is ><http://www.emeraldradio.com><. There are also pictures of the team, and >lots of other information. Broadcasts will take place every Saturday at 19:00 UTC/GMT 2:00PM Central USA to Europe, Africa and North America on 12.160 kHz. That programme will be then broadcast to Australia / Asia Pacific on Sunday at 08:00 UTC/GMT. Programs started June 8th 1997. Email: >global@emeraldradio.com<

■ **EUROPEAN MUSIC RADIO**'s come-back trm was a bit disappointing. In fact the station was very unlucky because re-lays via RFL had to be cancelled twice because of RFL's site problems. Then a relay was arranged via Ozone Radio. After only 5 minutes the tx's oscillator blew up. An engineer had to be called and he managed to get the 80W tx back on air at 11.42 BST. All in all the 6290 broadcast started much too late at a time many Dxers already cease listening. The modulation was not fine. Pxs consisted of fresh recorded 20th birthday shows featuring a French, English & Dutch service. The EMR crew incl. Barry Stephens is undaunted and determined to move on with the station on making it a success. Therefore it has been decided to repeat the complete 20th anniversary shows either in August or perhaps already sooner depending on propagation conditions. A new German service will then also be introduced. A complete set of International jingles has been produced and info-material is waiting for listeners. It must be said that the info-package is looking very good: a large QSL, a sticker (on both the EMR logo) and an info-sheet. Both sticker and QSL are printed in blue and red.

E.M.R. is a station concentrating on the programming side of the radio hobby, well-experienced presenters are part of the team. Shows are done in no less than 4 languages giving E.M.R. a true International flavour. No doubt E.M.R. is an asset to the SW free radio scene. Hopefully the listeners will respond in large numbers. Regular 41 mb trms with the solid-state 100W tx will be introduced as from Seot./October onwards when conditions improve. Address is Box 2727, 6049 ZG Herten in the Netherlands.

■ Interesting: early March we received some info (a press release) from Trevor Brooke keeping us up-to-date regarding the Radiofax situation. The heading of the press release reads "*European court to decide short wave licensing*". It continues with "*The British government has always forbidden independent SW broadcasting. More than 10 years after requesting such a licence (the Radiofax project) businessman Trevor Brooke is to take the matter to the European Court of Law under Article 10 of the European Human Rights Convention. With the Cold war over, jamming gone and big state broadcasters switching off, this country, with its tradition of excellence in broadcasting, has been missing out on the opportunity to bring a new lease of life to short wave. Between 1988 and 1992 Radiofax did operate a makeshift service, with studios and offices in England while taped programmes were transmitted 24 hours a day from Ireland on three SW frequencies after a ministerial announcement there that unlicensed broadcasting would be accepted pro tem. The speech based service of science, technology, media and technical news styled itself "Britain's Number Two Short Wave Station". Attached was a copy of a letter sent to Simon Mitchell Esq., Broadcasting Policy Division, Dep. of national Heritage in London. Quoting a few parts of the letter written by Radiofax' Trevor Brooke: "As it is now over 10 years since I first asked for permission to provide a SW radio service you can imagine that this continued lack of interest on your part has caused much frustration both to myself and to others whom I know have also been requesting licenses. I am writing now as a matter of courtesy to let you know that I shall shortly be seeking leave in the High Court for Judicial Review as the necessary first step to the European Court of Law where I believe the non-cooperative stance by the British Government with regard to the granting of SW licenses will be found unreasonably under Article 10 of the European Human Rights Convention."*" Perhaps many of you readers thought that the Radiofax case was at a dead end. The foregoing proves the opposite is not far from the truth! We wish Trevor all the luck he needs, we will stay in contact with him providing you updates at the moment there's something interesting to report. Radiofax can be contacted via The Forge, Lucks Green, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 7BG in England.

■ **RADIO FREE LONDON** took quite a few beatings in April. Taking into consideration the station used a few fixed sites for a very long time without having any problems (and broadcasting almost each weekend for 24 hours non-stop), the following story is - to say the least- remarkable.... The following story was sent by Email on the Internet by RFL's Andy Walker and edited by Peter Verbruggen.

In April RFL had had an incredible run of bad luck: ...
1 : Some Children found RFL's main site in London and switched off the rig but were caught by us and told to F**k off. As a result the station's crew had to give up the London site being used without any problems for a long period. As a coincident the station was already preparing trms from a new site outside London because the station wanted to use more powerful txs which could cause interference to neighbouring home appliances. But it was not the intention to give up the London location. The plan was to use the London site for the 3945 service which would be putting out different pxs from the ones being put on air from the new site outside London.

2 : The Raid.. The following Email was received Sunday Evening 20th April 1997:

RADIO FREE LONDON..Raided !

"Sometime around 2200hrs BST, the mains cable that lead from a motorway sign at a lonely and dark corner of the M25 motorway, was found by a maintenance worker, who traced it back into the nearby wood which was our new site. On finding the crates that housed the transmitting equipment he then called the police who then did a search of the wood and realizing it was a pirate radio



station, then called the Radio Investigation Service who removed the it. Both transmitters, one twin cassette player, one earth rod, two aerials and about 100 foot of mains cable which was buried under the ground.....We lost the lot! And it was nothing to do with interference. The saving grace is the fact that none of the crew were around at the time. The story did make UK Teletext and at least daily newspaper."

The following Email was received a few days later: "We wanted to keep it low key for a while, but the news is now out about the raid on RFL. By what we can make out, it was a case of over reaction by the Police who were called when our TX site was discovered by a maintenance worker. As most of you know the UK has had problems over the past few weeks with the "scum" Irish terrorist cowards IRA (I Ran Away) sending coded message's and Bomb warnings to close most of the UK's road network.

3 : Another one of RFL's mains sites in Kent was found and "Hipies" were using the power tap-in and mains cable which was leading to a tent in the woods !

4 : The final straw was on Friday night May 2nd when the mains cable at RFL's last main's site was found CUT !

Following successful trms on 5805 kHz (with only 12W!) during the Easter weekend, the RFL people had decided to make a definitive move from 6400 to 5805 on Sun May 18th. Although the Easter 5805 trms were aired with low power, the results were very encouraging. Advantages of 5805: a decrease of so-called "dead zone areas" (lower frequency = shorter skip) and a clearer signal with less noise, static etc. Sunday June 1st 1997 - sooner than expected- RFL returned on 6275kHz with 100 watts. A three hour loop was aired "to see if the DTI want to come out after us, out of pure anger over the bomb business of six weeks ago." A week later on the 8th a two hour loop was being put out on 5805 kHz. Result: RFL was received in New Zealand from 0435 to 0500 UTC (Sun June 8th)!! June 15th RFL was once again on 5805 with strong signals. A 2 hour loop was aired featuring newcomer Steve Chubby. This ex-Laser DJ who was fired after saying things about Radio Caroline has now joined the RFL team. Currently power on 5805 seems to be 40W. The station aims to be radiating 90W of power on 5805. June 22nd RFL was heard with a 4 hour loop starting as usual on the early Saturday evening. For the time being the RFL relay service is suspended. RFL has a brandnew Email address: > RFL@srs.pp.se < . RFL returned to the London airwaves in May with a six hour test on 1125kHz AM. A regular Saturday service will soon start (or has already been started) bringing Radio Free London back to the capitals airwaves.

■ **RADIO FREE WILLY-** "a free voice from Northern Germany- is on the air since May 12th 1996. The debute trm went out via the IMR. So far three shows have been aired. The station's musical output covers anything from pop, rock to hardcore. Address is (1).

■ May 18th the statement given below was received via Email from **KIWI RADIO**:

"As of June the 29th 1997 Kiwi Radio will cease operations from it's shortwave Transmitters in New Zealand due to other commitments, and deciding to become involved in Broadcasting on FM legally. The Kiwi Radio transmitters will be taken over by Radio Jemima as of July 1st 1997. Kiwi Radio will still be heard via relay both on Radio Jemima and any overseas contacts until approx September 6th 1997 which is the 20th Anniversary of the station. When unless by special request no further Shortwave programmes will be heard from Kiwi Radio." Graham Barclay is currently looking for stations willing to relay Kiwi Radio's special 20th anniversary show on the European airwaves. About a month ago FRSR's Joop ter Zee completed the production of a new Kiwi Radio jingle package... (to be used on SW).

■ **RADIO KORAK INT.** was heard with a splendid signal on 3910 Sat evening June 14th. Mod quality was excellent. An Int. music show was presented. RKI has an excellent info-package including QSL, sticker and info-sheet making it well worth to write to Box 134, 3780 BC Voorhuzen in the Netherlands.

■ **LEVEL 48** ruled the European free radio airwaves in the weekend of June 6th-8th. Trms started Friday evening on 76 metres and the final show was aired Sun afternoon on 6290. A great number of stations from various countries (Great Britain, Germany, Holland, Sweden) participated. Conditions were not too bad that weekend although there was some skip. Add is (1).

■ From Dave James, one of the people behind **THE PULSE AM**, we received some info. The 76 mb station uses 75 watts (AM) carrier power into 28 metres of wire, 8 metres high against an earth rod. The tx uses a crystal oscillator (at twice 3940KHz), followed by 74HC74 divider. The RF output consists of Four STPNA8N50s (which are mosfets). Series modulation is applied using four 2SA1302's with about 130V supply. The studio is linked, to the transmitter site. The studio has fairly basic equipment. The heart of it is a Soundcraft spirit folio mixer. Pulse SW has nothing to do with an FM pirate that went by the same name.

■ In a press release from April, **RADIO MARABU** announced to be starting high powered trms based in Ukraine. Radio Marabu will use the facilities of Radio Independence of Lviv in cooperation with the "The All-Ukrainian Festival "Alternativa" at the following frequencies and times: daily from 10.00-12.00 and from 21.00-00.00 on 11.830 kHz (50 kW), 1476 (30 kW)& at Lviv local on 106.7 FM.. Actual broadcasting started late April on a "reduced rate" with programmes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 12.00 to 13.00 hours UTC. From Mid-May onwards the programmes will increase step by step to the foregoing schedule. Address is: Radio Marabu - P O Box 1166 - D 49187 Belm - Germany. Tel: 05406/899484, Fax 05406/899485.

Email: > radiomarabu@t-online.de < .

ULR: > <http://www.dma.be/p/amphion/sztuka/marabu.htm> < .

■ **RADIO MISTERO GHOST PLANET**'s address is (1).

■ **RADIO NORDSEE INT.** from Germany was heard with a great signal & fine modulation on 6210 kHz on Sun June 8th. The station used a brandnew rig which certainly is more powerful than the txs used in the recent past. RNI broadcasts every 2nd Sun and station OP Mike Anderson hopes that 4th Sun broadcasts will soon be re-introduced. These trms had to be cancelled because of RFL losing its sites. For security reasons only 2nd Sun trms are carried out with the new tx. RNI has a brandnew address taking effect at once: (10). Besides a good signal, RNI's output consists of interesting pxs being a mix of info and music.

DJs include Sascha Hellmann, Mike Anderson, Oliver Albrecht, Joerg Schneider, Thomas Haase, Mike Drove & Frank Petersen.

■ **SHORT WAVE RADIO SWITZERLAND** has closed down at the end of April being replaced by a brand new station taking over. Free Radio programmes are still to be heard every Sunday via IRRS at 19.00 UTC on 3985 Khz for one hour only. The new station is called **Radio 510 International** and will be run alone by DJ Stevie of Radio Sparks/ex SWRS. His main aim is to give the DX'ers the very best of Free Radio and encourage new listeners to join in. New stations from all over the globe will have a chance to be heard. If you have any questions concerning Radio 510 International, please feel free to e-mail the new station at: > scarlett@swissonline.ch < or send your post to Radio 510 Int., P.O.Box 510, CH-4010 Basel Switzerland. The station also has a website: > <http://www.radio510.org> < .

1 = P.O.Box 220342 / D-42373 WUPPERTAL / Germany
2 = 14 Stone Row/ COLERAINE/ Co. Londonderry/ BT52 1EP/ Northern Ireland
4 = P.O.Box 130/ 92504 RUEIL Cedex/ France
5 = 12 Dorman Rd/ PRESTON/ Lancs PR2 6AS/ England
7 = P.O.Box 386/ 5900 AJ VENLO/ th Netherlands
8 = Box 293/ Merlin/ Ontario N0P 1W0/ Canada
9 = 34B Drift Road/ Clanfield/ Waterloo/ Harts PO8 0JL/UK
10= SRS/ Östra Porten 29/ 442 54 YTTERBY/ Sweden

■ Herbie the Fish back on SW?? At the moment you read this, you should try to pick up a signal of **SUPERCLAN RADIO** on 6275 kHz. Provided the plans have succeeded, the station is back on air since Thurs June 19th/Fri June 20th with a non-stop music format 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Every day a fresh 90 minute tape is being aired starting sometime in the late evening. Throughout the day, this tape is continuously repeated. The non-stop pop music interspersed by short announcements is being radiated with a power of only 2.5 watts. It concerns a X-tal controlled tx using a brandnew transistor type: IRF200. According to Herbie the Fish, the tx is making use of an unique kind of modulation: *Pulse Width Modulation*. It means that no pre-amplifier is needed, the



headphone output of the walkman can be directly plugged into the tx. Trms emanate from the Eastern part of the Netherlands close to the German border, the area is called Elten. The address is Box 343, 6900 AH Zevenaar. Email: > superclan@usa.net <. As long as the authorities tolerate the non-stop trms, the station will remain on air. We are curious what area will be covered with such low power....

► Some news now from German 'Oldie' **RADIO TITANIC INT.** The station is still alive but not that "kicking". Several circumstances made it impossible to give any sign of life during the past year! About 80 reports were received for all RTI's 20/21st anniversary trms all over the world during the preceding year and several E-mails were received via > titanic@srs.pp.se to < as well. The station underlines that all reports will be verified with a colourful photo qsl, tiny stickers and sheets. At the moment the updated booklet is being finished off and then the envelopes will be forwarded. RTI has prepared yet another 30 minutes tape to be relayed in North/ South America as well as in the Pacific and the station will also be heard in Europe presenting a special expedition show to remember the Titanic's shipwreck 85 years ago. This show will be aired soon and we'd be glad to have your company. Add is (1).

► The International Broadcasting frequency planning meeting, held in Turkey January 1997, gave **UNITED CHRISTIAN BROADCASTERS**, Stoke-on-Trent, England, (UCB Europe) permission to operate on 6200kHz 24 hours per day. Country of origin listed as Dublin, much to the surprise of Ireland, who did not note the agenda for the meeting and so didn't attend! In addition Russia have given written international permission for UCB Europe to operate on the following frequencies allocated to Russia under international agreement in Europe:

* Short wave	6200kHz	24 hours, 10kW
* Medium wave	549kHz	24 hours, 300kW
* Long wave	279kHz	24 hours, 300kW

They operate via Satellite at present, on the Astra 1B transponder 20, Sky Sports 1, Audio Channel 7.56MHz.

Short wave service is at present a 1kW transmitter, into a dipole array sloping from 60ft to 30ft above ground level. Reception on 6200 on the continent isn't brilliant.

UCB who broadcast in many parts of Ireland via FM pirate transmitters could be heading for trouble. Apparently UCB has been warned by other pirate stations about the fact that their Dublin FM transmitter, on 98.4, and another one located just north of Dublin in County Louth on 98.1, are causing interference to the licenced station 98FM. UCB have not changed their frequency despite the warnings, and as one Irish pirate put it "they might as well be wearing a flashing neon sign saying 'Raid Me'". Generally speaking, pirate radio stations are left alone in Ireland, even if they are quite commercial, but it's feared that if one operator forces the authorities to act by interfering with a licenced station, then the raids will affect other stations too. A final piece of news: UCB has upped power from 5 to 10 kW on its main AM 549 kHz outlet in Ireland.

► Easter Saturday night saw the return of Russian **RWBI - RADIO WITHOUT BORDERS INT.** on the European free radio airwaves. RWBI was noted on 3910 kHz /76 metres. Although the signal-strength was ok, the modulation sounded dull. For more info please contact: Artiom Prokhorov, Tashkentskaya 19-1-181, Moscow 109444 in Russia. Email address is: > artiom@hlpca.redline.ru <.

► In FRSGDX #143 you could read about a possible return of the legendary SW station **WORLD MUSIC RADIO**. Many European SW listeners will recall the jingle "Come along with us- we've got a good thing going- World Music Radio". In the mean time the station is back !! First a potted history.... WMR was founded in the mid 1960s by the then 17-year old Dutchman Theo Verstraeten. July 1968 W.M.R. officially started making use of a modestly powered SW tx. In the 70s it had developed into a professional and well-organised, popular station putting out a mix of Dx-info and music. April 1973 saw the introduction of the 'WMR Club'. Trms were aired from Holland. At the time the Dutch PTT arrived at the location August 19th 1973. W.M.R. had proven its point: there was a market for pop-oriented SW stations! While W.M.R. fell silent other stations like Gemini, ABC Europe, E.M.R. & FRS-Holland took over the idea. The individual members of the W.M.R.-team got involved in several other projects - for instance ABC Europe- but the mutual contact was maintained. August 28th 1976 W.M.R. hit the airwaves again, this time on

Saturday mornings via the Radio Andorra SW tx. Already a month later trms were suspended because of poor reception in Northern Europe. The team dispersed- founder Theo Verstraeten even emigrated to New Zealand!- but it was almost exactly 3½ years, Febr. 17th 1980, later that W.M.R. made its second comeback, once again via the Radio Andorra tx. This was quite a surprise because no-one expected that Radio Scandinavia, the main contractor of the Andorra tx at that time, would change suddenly into W.M.R. Key-figures behind this move were Paul Dane and Lee Alvin. March 1981 W.M.R. was forced to close down because the contract between Radio Andorra and the local authorities expired. In the mean time W.M.R. had registered itself as a non-profit organisation under the laws of the Netherlands and 1983 the station proudly announced a 3rd return on SW, this time via Radio Dublin and for a brief period via Radio Milano Int. It's a pity the out-of-band 6910 kHz trms never attracted great number of listeners. W.M.R.'s Lee Alvin also arranged broadcasts via several French/ Italian FM outlets also those trms didn't comply with the station's aim being a world-wide broadcasting station. Dublin-based trms ceased in 1985. Although it was hoped to return on SW via a 1 kW tx based in Italy, these plans never materialized. It was Stig-Hartvig Nielsen, the key-figure behind the success of the short-lived Radio ABC Denmark project last year, who took the initiative to inject new life into the famous station. During May info was received by Email. We quote: *'The new World Music Radio - WMR - will commence broadcasting as of May 31st 1997 with trms every Saturday and Sunday at 1800-2200 UTC on two frequencies: 3345 kHz (for Southern Africa only) and 6290 kHz for "the rest of the World". The transmitter site is South Africa, and Africa is the prime target area for the new broadcasts of WMR. However the strong signals of the 250 kW transmitter is also believed to be well heard in parts of Southern Asia, the Middle East and Europe. World Music Radio will - as the station has been doing in the past - play the best of the current hits and the best of the hits from the past - presented in a personal, informal and friendly style. The antenna beam of the 250 kW transmitter on 6290 kHz has not been decided yet. In order to find the best solution test transmissions will be conducted on May 8th, 10th and 11th (18-22 UTC) on this frequency, and listeners all over the World - but in Africa in particular - are invited to monitor these transmissions and let us know which ones are received at a good level. Monitoring observations are requested by fax (+45 70 222 888) or by e-mail*

to > wmr@cybernet.dk <." Tests were very successful and indeed it was Saturday evening May 31st 1997 when W.M.R. officially returned on the airwaves with a very powerful 6290 signal. Pxs are being hosted by Paul Dane and Stig-Hartvig Nielsen. The latter told Peter Verbrugge that he informed Theo Verstraeten and Lee Alvin who both also played a very important part in the W.M.R. history about the new start. The musical output consists of European pop music (both oldies & current hits) but attention is also paid to African music. Not to wonder that broadcasts are aimed at this part of the world! During the broadcasts a telephone hotline is open for musical requests to be played the following weekend. Reception reports should be forwarded to: WMR, P. O. Box 112, DK-8900 Randers, Denmark - enclosing return postage). Further details on World Music Radio can be found at: > www.wmr.dk <. The station is selling a good-looking T-shirt and an athletic shirt for US\$20/25 respectively.

► **INTERNET NEWS:** the following message was received by Email from Andrew Yoder: *'NEW HOBBY BROADCASTING WEBSITE! I've got a new website up & running called Radio Free Internet! It's dedicated to FM/SW/AM pirating, Internet broadcasting, Part 15 radio, cable-access TV, etc. Right now, It's got classified ads, information about books, recent pirate news, PiPas, info about Hobby Broadcasting magazine, links, etc. I've been adding new bits of info & graphics everyday. I'm on the lookout for more info, so feel free to sling anything my way! the URL: > http://www.fri.net/rfi <.*

More interesting **WEBSITES:** City FM (Germany) can be reached via Email: > CFM972@aol.com < The station's homepage on the WWW: > HTTP://members.aol.com/CityFM < Transatlantic Radio's URL certainly's worth a visit:

> http://home.pi.net/~trans/home.htm < . Another interesting site is > http://193.63.162.100/gh/eire < set up by WMR Scotland's

Jack Russell. It contains info about listening to Irish AM and FM pirates and about Jack's trips to Ireland. All of this dates back to the late 1970s. A great historical document here!

Radio Sparks from Switzerland has produced a good-looking and informative info-sheet worth obtaining. You can also reach Sparks via Email: > scarlett@swissonline.ch <.

Achim's Free Radio Disaster has been relaunched. This website now emphasizes on the history of European pirate radio from 1988-97 with info-sheets and pictures from past and present.

Take a look at: > <http://members.aol.com/abffr/index.htm> < (this site uses frames!). Radio Joystick's Charlie Prince can now be contacted by email at > chapri@aol.com <.

Ozone Radio's e-mail: > 106574.1725@Compuserve.com <. The station has a brandnew homepage on the WWW which is:

> http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/radio_ozone/ <.

■ **NEWS FROM BOOKS:** "Pirate R. Operations" is now available. It's 376 pages of info about how pirates put a station together & successfully broadcast. It's mostly intended for pirate listeners, & beginning & intermediate pirates in the US, but if you're an old pirate or from outside of the US, it should still be an interesting read. Cost is \$18 + \$2 shipping in US (add \$1.20 sales tax for Pennsylvania residents only). (list price is \$19.95)

"Pirate Radio: The Incredible Saga of America's Illegal, Underground Broadcasters" is a 340 pages book of info about pirate radio, the history, current stations, how to hear pirates etc. It has an audio CD with about 18 min. of audio clips. Cost is \$25 + \$2 shipping in the US (add \$1.62 sales tax for Pennsylvania residents only; list price is \$29.95). If you live outside the US & want to buy a book, check > <http://www.frn.net/rfi> < for international postage costs. If you want to buy either of these books, send a check or IMO (payable to Cabinet Communications) to: Cabinet Communications, PO Box 642, Mont Alto, PA 17237, USA.

SOUNDS FROM OFFSHORE

■ For Caroline fans there's some good news. The official Caroline website is now operational (with the help of Caroline veteran Johnny Walker). The address on the Internet's WWW is:

> <http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk> <. This website is operated by Peter Moore. To make things a bit confusing: Steve Satan runs another Caroline homepage. The address is almost identical to Peter Moore's one! The two are no rivals but are co-operating. Address: > <http://www.radio-caroline.co.uk> <. The following news was to be read on the latter website: "Radio Caroline broadcasted from 5 May on 106.6 FM in and around Bristol. It was again broadcast from the Thekla, which is a ship tied up in Bristol and is well known with clubbers since it is in fact one of the premier music venues in Bristol. The station was on air until Sunday 1st June. For the broadcasts we chose an indie rock music policy. This meant not only playing the current indie favorites such as Manic street Preachers, Ash, the Cardigans, etc., but also those acts from the past which have had an influence on the current indie scene, such as Jimi Hendrix, David Bowie, the Kinks, MC5, etc. Indie Rock is more popular than ever, and yet it doesn't get played on any commercial radio station. By adopting this music policy Caroline was going back to what it was doing in the 60s, i.e. playing music that no one else is. In a bold move we also decided not to play Caroline by the Fortunes as a station theme on the grounds that it's crap, and that it would alienate anyone under the age of 60 or anyone with any musical taste. Media coverage included HTV news, Channel One cable, Radio Bristol (four interviews) and an interview on GWR-FM. We also got much press coverage in the Bristol Evening Post, the Western Daily Press, Venue, Bristol Freetime and others.

The Ross Revenge is currently moored in the river Medway, near Rochester. It is not known yet whether it will move to Ipswich. If it does then there is expected to be a RSL broadcast made although investigations are being made into the possibility of the ship moving back towards London and broadcasting there for a month. One of the best moments since 1991 was the chance to broadcast from the heart of London in October 1995. There has been great excitement at the possibility of this happening again in 1997.

A third interesting website regarding Caroline is that run by Andy Brooks and is called "Caroline Now". The WWW address is: > <http://www.tintub.demon.co.uk> <.

One of the Caroline people recently reported that Caroline plans to put out regular taped programmes on SW (from Ireland). It was for instance the idea to put out a special show on SW during the Easter weekend when Caroline celebrated its 33rd birthday. But because the tx wasn't fully operational, the show had to be cancelled.

■ Israeli offshore pirate "Galei Hayam Hativon" (Mediterranean Waves) returned on air early May. The station, broadcasting from the M.V. Kajur ran aground in 1995 and was never heard of again, but now they seem to be on 101.8FM with tests containing music and jingles. It's not known yet if broadcasts really emanate from a new ship or are coming from land.

RADIO GAL WAVE, a pirate that claimed to broadcast from a ship off the Israeli coast, has been shut down by police. The truth is that the station transmitted from an apartment block on land and not from the Mediterranean. The raid came after complaints by pilots who heard music instead of the control tower.

■ Interesting is the plan to bring back **Radio London** with a special 28 day RSL this Summer off Frinton-on-Sea. The period in which the broadcasts have to take place is between July 18th and August 14th. Possible frequency: 1134 kHz AM. The planned use of an ex-Navy minesweeper now seems to be off, but yet another ship has been found. An engineer for the project has also been found with just eight weeks before the project plans to come on the air, along with a professional transmitter.

■ Martin van der Ven from Germany sent us the following message: "Just let me remind you of my own page now containing 145 links to offshore sites on the web plus 81 photos on the "Gallery" (i.e. 17 pictures of the Ross Revenge in international waters from 1983 till 1991) plus the latest offshore news. The URL is: > <http://home.t-online.de/home/vanderVen/> < . " This website is highly recommended, a must for every (offshore) radio freak (PV)!! But watch yourself not to become an addict...

■ **ACCESS TO THE AIRWAVES: My Fight For Free Radio** By Allan H. Weiner (as told to Anita Louise McCormick) is a great new book which was recently published. Allan H. Weiner has always believed that the airwaves are free, and that they rightfully belong to the people. Ever since his childhood, this gifted radio enthusiast has devoted his time and energy to the development of free radio broadcasting. In addition to his "pirate" radio projects, Weiner has engineered, worked for, and owned a number of licensed radio and TV broadcast stations.

The film "Pump Up The Volume" appeared to be loosely based on Weiner's teenage pirate radio adventures, but failed to capture even a fraction of the dedication and the intensity that this heroic free speech advocate has brought to his endeavors throughout his life. The trials and tribulations that Weiner endured to bring Radio New York International to the air are legendary. The FCC's illegal seizure of Weiner's radio ship the M/V Sarah in 1987, which he designed and built to broadcast from the international waters off the coast of New York, made headlines around the world. Weiner's story is both a heart-warming tale of an electronics genius at work and a chilling indictment of government disregard for personal liberties and free speech. But despite the FCC's efforts to silence him, Weiner has persevered. And he continues to work towards a future when the airwaves are open to all who choose to use them and the world becomes a better place because of the free transmission of knowledge. Access to the Airwaves: My Fight For Free Radio, Weiner's autobiographical account, is a powerful rendition that should be read by all who believe that speech should be unfettered, and that fighting the powers-that-be is an often unheralded necessity.

Access to the Airwaves: My Fight For Free Radio is now available from Loompanics Unlimited for \$17.95 plus \$4.95 S&H U.S. (Ph. USA 1-800-380-2230, international 1-360-385-7471, World-Wide Web <http://www.loompanics.com>) It can also be ordered through many book stores and radio-related mail order companies by the end of the month.

■ **EURORADIO 97.** Offshore Echo's and France Radio Club are pleased to announce this annual event being held in Calais on Saturday 5 July 1997. EURORADIO takes place at the Car ferry terminal conference room from 2 in the afternoon, with videos and special guests Johnny Walker and (to be confirmed) a youngish Irishman. There will also be the Offshore Echo's boutique with a wide range of offshore radio CD's, tapes, books and videos, many at special prices. Horizon Sales will also be presenting a range of Radio Caroline merchandise. In the evening there is a special Eur-



oradio dinner at the private dining room at the ferry terminal. EURORADIO 97 costs £26.00 including dinner, or just £6.00 for the afternoon only. Full details of the event, Calais map and hotel details are available. For bookings and other details contact Offshore Echo's, Box 1514, London W7 2LL. Fax/phone 0181 840 8580. E-mail > 101322.2237@compuserve.com <

◻ Former Offshore DJ **Mike Raven** who hosted pxs on 60s pirates Atlanta, Invicta, 390 and then BBC Radio One, died of a heart complaint at the age of 72 on April 24th.

◻ Rather shocking was the news of the death of former Laser 558 DJ **David Lee Stone** who died last month of a drinks related illness at his home in Tucson, Arizona. He was only 39.

◻ May saw the official publication of the brandnew jingle CD "A History of Offshore Radio Jingles". Here's what Paul Rusling said about this unique CD:

"Something over half those working in radio profess a love of jingles, especially the sung ones made popular in Europe by the offshore stations of the last few decades. This month sees the release of a CD telling the story of how Caroline and other stations pirated the jingles from demo tapes, how the offshore stations pirated jingles from each other, and then how legal land-based stations simply copied stations such as Radio London. The story is told by veteran broadcaster Keith Skues who was there most of the time; his authoritative recollections help hundreds of US originals and European copies into a riveting tale. But this isn't just an hour long wallow in nostalgia - it's an important insight into the fabric of today's radio and how it evolved from the full stale sounds of European radio before the pirate ships. I picked up a copy of this in Holland early May where it was on sale for 25 guilders (about eight quid) - it's worth five times that and I'm sure it's a tax deductible educational material!"

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

◻ The new Irish medium-wave pirate which caused controversy earlier this year by claiming that it would be named Radio Caroline has now revealed it's real on-air identity: **JukeBox Gold AM**. The station claims to be almost ready to begin test-transmissions, though this announcement will be greeted with a pinch or to of salt by people who remember the launch dates quoted for mid-December, mid January, and February 14th. The new timescale quoted for the start of transmissions by this pirate station was "mid to late April" but also on this date no signals were monitored on 864Khz. The new station aims to cover a fair portion of Northern Ireland, and parts of mainland UK with a transmitter based on the coast near Dundalk in the Irish Republic. Estimates of the power to be used vary between 5 and 20 kilowatts, but it's generally agreed that the choice of frequency is a poor one, given the proximity of a local BBC station on a nearby frequency. The station's AM transmitter is left over from the former Superpirate era of the 80s. Reliable reports have confirmed that a 140 foot free standing mast has been erected at the broadcast site (3 miles west of Clougherhead in Co. Louth.) , and that all aerial and cabling work is now completed. If you are connected to the Internet, some excellent photos of the mast can be found at the KISS FM website (KISS FM is a pirate in Northern Ireland), see for yourself: > <http://homepages.iol.ie/~kissfm/jbg/jbg.html> <.

The station blames the weather for delaying it's on-air date, claiming that construction work on the mast was held back by rain and high winds during January and February. It's not known officially who is behind the station, and at least one of the people involved with the project has been publicly denying any involvement. Staff are stressing at this point that the station will definitely not be called Radio Caroline, nor does it have any connection to the official Caroline, other than the fact that some of its backers may have been involved in offshore radio in the past.

Early June it was said the station was ready to switch on its transmitters, although on reduced power. According to a Irish businessman, the station has been supplied with three AM transmitters by a UK organisation: one 1kW, one 5kW & one 10kW unit. Only the 1kW unit will be used at first. The start of transmissions is said to have been delayed by internal disagreements, and by recent Irish Government activity in the area.

◻ Monday June 9th Dutch (female) Minister Jorritsma announced the (new) assignment of FM frequencies taking effect as from January 1st 1998 onwards till September 2000. The following commercial stations won't get a terrestrial FM frequency and can only be heard on cable: Q-FM, TalkRadio, KINK FM, Love Radio

& Concert Radio. JazzRadio will get its first terrestrial outlet. In addition to their AM outlets, HitRadio Veronica & 675 Radio 10 Gold will also be heard on FM. A complete survey will be published in the FRSNL #15 early September when our beloved Dutch media expert Chris Latiers returns in this humble Newsheet. Chris, you have some work to do!

◻ **THE MEDIAZOO** is a highly interesting weekly satellite show for radio enthusiasts. The show is to be received each Wednesday at 20.00 PM (21.00 CEST) via the Astra satellite on CMT Radio's 7.38/7.56 audio subcarriers (CNBC-TV (10.729 Ghz/V)).

◻ Broadcasting from Kent, "The Garden Of England", **EAST KENT RADIO** is setting out on a mission to break the "radio mould" which currently shackles creative radio in Britain.

EKR was originally formed in the early 90's as a vehicle to apply for the re-advertised Independent Local Radio licence for East Kent. Unfortunately, this application in 1995 proved to be unsuccessful. EKR's founder Peter Leutner refused to be disheartened and a re-configured EKR team set out to apply for one of the first tier of "sallie" local radio licences.

This licence covered a significant part of East Kent. The EKR licence campaign included a spell on-air in December 1995, broadcasting to Ashford; Canterbury via a 28 day RSL licence. EKR's website: > <http://www.east-kent-radio.demon.co.uk> <.

◻ In the first week of June, Newstide (providing a radio news service on the Internet's WWW) announced 576 AM tests from a high-powered radio station. It was not revealed which station was involved but fact is that many listeners were excited as they considered it to be a new offshore project. 576 kHz tests were promised for Saturday evening June 8th. Indeed: at 18.30 UTC 576 AM was on air (till just after 23.00 UTC). In the mean time we can reveal that Astra satellite broadcaster **COUNTRY MUSIC RADIO** is the station behind this initiative, attempting to start an English-language Pan-European radio service, being keen to achieve European coverage through a powerful terrestrial tx. The tests were made from a state-owned site in Latvia. The tx would be radiating a power of no less than 500 kW but major technical problems caused big disappointment among the CMR crew (Chris England/ Eric Wilsher) which had travelled to Eastern Europe. Because of fires in the transmitter room, the power had to be turned down considerably. Moreover: there was an earthing problem and much of the power was being lost because of a faulty feeder cable. Much of the power was lost before reaching the actual antenna. Although a UK phone-number and e-mail address were announced, response was virtually nil. Only a handful (4) of reports were received all indicating reception in Western Europe was very, very poor. It was planned to re-commence trms Sun evening but this had to be cancelled because the local engineering team was unable to solve the problems, there was no prospect of any major improvement. According to the CMR team, the tx is capable of putting out a much better signal following major adjustments to the tx, feeder and antenna array. According to expert Paul Rusling, CMR will never succeed in reaching the UK with a powerful signal even when 500 kW is efficiently used. He says that the tx was installed for domestic coverage of Latvia using an aerial designed to radiate groundwave rather than skywave. Besides: the low frequency end of the medium wave isn't a good choice for radiating a skywave (which is essential for long distance propagation!). A much higher frequency would be much more suitable, for instance the external Russian service in Kaliningrad is coming in quite well on 1386 kHz (was also used by RNW) but remember that's a 1200 (!!) kW signal connected to a massive aerial array. He adds that the 500 kW tx in Latvia is a Tesla one and the encountered problems are typical for that type of tx. An extra problem is the modulation which is mostly kept very low at these txs. 100% mod is almost impossible for technical reasons. It's unknown what step the CMR team will take but it seems obvious that further attempts from Latvia won't be made.

You can reach us at any time via the Internet....

◻ peter.verbruggen@tip.nl

◻ frsh@pi.net

◻ <http://home.pi.net/~freak55/home.htm>

or via our snailmail address.....

FRSH, P.O.Box 2727, 6049 ZG HERDEN
the Netherlands.